115 ERSKINE, 2nd FLOOR
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48201
PHONE (313) 876-0674
FAX (313) 664-5505
TYY: 711

A Michigan Works! Agency

MEETING:	**DESC Corporate Board Annual Meeting**	**DATE:**	**August 24, 2026**
ATTENDEES:	**DESC Corporate Board Members:** John Perkins, Alice Thompson, Dannis Mitchell, Brittney Hoszkiw, Lena Barkley, Ric Preuss, Chris Uhl (remote), Gail Taylor **DESC Staff:** Terri Weems, Stephanie Nixon, Ira Thompson II, Calethia Binion, Rachel May, Maleece Barry, Carmen Bender, Madelyne Bernard-Diab, Robert Shimkoski, Kevin Naud, Talitha Johnson, Geraldine Mann, Darilyn Draper **Remote:** Brett Cave, Janae' King, Cassandra Ricks, Kellie Stewart, Lynnette Robinson, Sheila Johnson, Herman Perry	**LOCATION:** **CALLED TO ORDER:**	**DESC Corporate Offices** **1:52 p.m.**
ABSENT:	**Excused:** Rian English-Barnhill **Unexcused:** None	**ADJOURNED:**	**3:00 p.m.**
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	Felicia Vannostrand, Ken Pulliam, Paul Gesher, Autumn Jackson-Hines, Brittany Claybrooks, Destiny Sanders, Sam Talbot, Taylor Smith		
FACILITATOR:	Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson	**DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:**	**November 16, 2026**

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Call to Order	Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:52 p.m.	
II. Welcome & Introductions Approval of agenda/minutes	Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the agenda for the August 24, 2026, meeting: **Motion:** Brittney Hoszkiw **Seconded:** Ric Preuss **Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously**	Agenda approved pending a reorder to move the closed session section after the public comment section.

	Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the June 9, 2026, meeting: **Motion:** Dannis Mitchell **Seconded:** Lena Barkley **Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously**	

III. Chairpersons Report	**Ms. Thompson reported:**
	• Executive Committee Update:
	  • The committee moved to appoint DESC Board Chairs and updated member Dannis Mitchell as chair of the Program Services Committee. All remaining chair positions are unchanged.
	  • The committee moved to approve a leadership succession plan noting Stephanie Nixon, Ira Thompson II and Calethia Binion as proposed successors in that order. It was noted that it is best practice to discuss contingency planning and discussed desire to review this annually
	• Finance Team Update: Formal introduction of DESC CFO Ira Thompson II to the board, filling DESC's key finance roles
	• COI Form: Reminder to the board that Conflict of Interest forms are due annually
	• Contracts Report: Reminder to the board that a current contract report has been provided to all board members
	• 2027 Corporate Board & Committee Dates: Presentation of 2027 schedule for board and committee for approval
	
	Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the 2027 board and committee meeting dates:
	Motion: Ric Preuss
	Seconded: Brittney Hoszkiw
	Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously	

IV. Resident Testimonials	**Ms. Talitha Johnson, Director of Communications, DESC reported:** **Resident Testimonials (In person)** • **Brittany Claybrooks:** Without a network or roadmap, she turned to Detroit at Work's job portal, where she found opportunities to explore her career options at her own pace. She's now hired with the City of Detroit's Jobs and Economy Team (JET) as a Senior Advisor.	

	• **Destiny Sanders:** Through GDYT, she was paired with "Destined for Greatness," a non-profit that connects young girls to mentorship and key resources. She continued to work with the organization through GDYT for 8 consecutive years and was hired full-time in 2023.	

V. President's Report	**Ms. Weems reported:**
	• **Presented Detroit at Work by the Numbers report:** Fiscal Year closing June 30, 2026
	• A recent survey to DAW jobseekers without a hire record garnered 3,440 responses and noted an additional 1,943 reported employment.
	• **Youth Outcomes at Randolph DPSCD CTE were discussed:**
	• **Youth Outcomes at Detroit Workforce of the Future we discussed:**
	• **Youth Outcomes: Barton Malow Bootcamp (employer led initiative):**
	  • all signed on to union (2 laborers, 3 carpenters)
	• **Youth Outcomes: Developer Real Estate Accelerator (led by Dannis Mitchell):**
	  • Scholarships to young people to support builders license, real estate license)
	• **Interim President Update:**
	  • More employer-driven training models
	  • Grow Detroit's Young Talent: Closed the funding gap, places over 8,000, added 2-week career readiness, targeted outreach to youth over 18.
	  • Increased fiduciary services
	  • Realigned CEAC work with broader workforce strategy
	  • PATH plan to support poverty elimination
	  • Finance & Operations: Continued deficit reduction efforts, key finance roles filled, regular and timely updates provided to committee, I proved subrecipient contracting processes
	  • Reshaping our Service Footprint: reducing administrative costs while broadening reach
	• **Interim President Transition:**
	  • After serving as DESC's Interim President since March, Ms. Weems announced she will be stepping down from the role and returning her focus to her position with the City of Detroit leading our workforce strategy.
	  • She was asked to return to DESC during a particularly challenging period for the organization. Her assignment was straightforward: help stabilize DESC, strengthen its financial and operational position, rebuild critical leadership	

	capacity, and ensure continuity in our service to Detroit residents, employers and partners. • Ms. Weems and the organization have made significant progress toward those objectives, and the organization is well positioned to continue moving forward. Board discussion ensued. Board members were very complimentary of Ms. Weems progress over the past few months and expressed regret at news of departure. Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve Stephanie Nixon, current Chief Programs Services Officer, DESC as Interim President, DESC, effective, August 28, 2026 **Motion:** Ric Preuss **Seconded:** Lena Barkley **Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously**	
VI. Audit & Finance Committee Update	**Chris Uhl, Audit & Finance committee chair reported:** • Preliminary June 2026 Financial Info • Finance Staffing • Audit Update	
VII. MWDB Update	**Terri Weems reported:** • Rise Higher Workforce Strategy: Will include several of Mayor Sheffield's focus areas including poverty elimination and more wraparound supports. • Potential budget amendments related to PATH and Career Center administrative budgets to support Mayors efforts. If adjustments are recommended to the budget, this will come back to the finance committee at a future meeting.	
VIII. Program Services Committee Update	**Ms. Stephanie Nixon, Chief Programs Officer, DESC reported:** • **Career Center Footprint:** Reshaping the career center footprint to allow us to service more residents in more areas. • **CEAC Update:** 3 priorities that support the CEAC's main purpose were highlighted: Explore internships subsidies and year-round work-based learning; Define CEAC success metrics; Identify policy barriers and disincentives	

		• **Grow Detroit's Young Talent Update:** More than 20,000 applications received. Youth placement goal was exceeded. Conducted targeted outreach to more than 4,000 young adults, ages 18-24 who were not accepted into GDYT. Launched an expanded Career-Readiness component two weeks ahead of the traditional GDYT work experience. Prioritized youth with the greatest need. **Ms. Terri Weems, Director of Communications, DESC reported:** Ms. Weems shared success stories from residents across the city that have come through the Detroit at Work system and have been hired in a variety of roles within the city including Wayne County Sheriff, CDL-A driver, Truck Driver and MRCC Apprentice, all with positive outcomes Ms. Weems closed her report with two videos highlighting resident success in the T.R.A.D.E. Connect and Grow Detroit's Young Talent programs.	
IX.	**Public Comments**	None	
X.	**Closed Session**	Ms. Thompson called for a motion for closed session pursuant to section 8A of the Michigan Open Meetings Act to consider evaluation of an employee at the request of the employee: **Motion:** Brittney Hoszkiw **Seconded:** Lena Barkley **Motion Carried – A roll call vote was approved unanimously** At 2:38 p.m. all persons other than the DESC Executive Committee and the Interim President were excused from the meeting. The doors to the meeting room were closed and the committee proceeded to closed session. Doors to the meeting room were reopened at 2:59 p.m. and Ms. Thompson reopened the public meeting. Ms. Weems verbally called outside the meeting doors to inform any persons present that the meeting was back in session.	
XI.	**Adjournment**	**Ms. Thompson called for a Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m.** **Motion:** Ric Preuss **Seconded:** Dannis Mitchell **Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously**	

DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: Rachel May Title: Senior Executive Assistant

Signature: /s/ Rachel May Date: 06/16/2026

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: 11.16.2026 Initials: RMM

NEXT MEETING: Monday, November 16, 2026 at 1:45 p.m.